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Hanafi Urges Greater Attention to Prisoners' Rights

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, has urged prison authorities to pay greater attention to the rights and welfare of prisoners and take further measures to improve their conditions.

Hanafi made the remarks during a meeting with a number of prisoners at Bagram prison, where he listened to their requests and concerns, according to officials, Arg said in a statement on Sunday.

He instructed prison authorities to ensure that prisoners' rights are fully respected in accordance with Islamic law and called for greater attention to improving detention conditions, providing healthcare services and ensuring necessary facilities for inmates.

Hanafi also directed officials to address prisoners' problems and concerns and take appropriate measures to improve the services provided to them.

Meanwhile, Bagram prison officials briefed the visiting delegation on the overall condition of prisoners, the process of dealing with their affairs and measures already taken to address their needs.

The officials assured the delegation that they would continue efforts to resolve existing problems and provide better services and facilities for prisoners. **The Kabul Times**

Afghan, Uzbek Officials Hold Talks on Expanding Health Cooperation

KABUL: Mawlavi Hamdullah Zahid, Deputy Minister for Food and Medicine of the Ministry of Public Health, in a meeting with Abdullah Azizov, Deputy Minister of Health and head of the Pharmaceutical Industry Development Agency of Uzbekistan, discussed health cooperation, the ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

The meeting discussed ways to expand bilateral cooperation in medicines, medical equipment, health products and food, as well as the exchange of experiences, transfer of technical knowledge, development of technical capacities and expansion of trade relations, the statement said.

Zahid emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation and exchanging expertise and technical knowledge to improve the quality of medicines, health products and food.

Meanwhile, Uzbek health officials briefed the Afghan delegation on the capacities, achievements and regulatory systems of Uzbekistan's pharmaceutical and health products industry.

They also expressed readiness to expand technical cooperation, exchange experiences and implement joint programs with Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health, emphasizing the importance of further strengthening bilateral cooperation in the health and pharmaceutical sectors. **The Kabul Times**

Development Projects Implemented Based on Priorities, Mansoor Says

KABUL: Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor, Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, said that public development projects are being implemented based on identified priorities and the principle of balanced development nationwide.

Mansoor made the remarks during a meeting with tribal elders and influential figures from Shwak district of Paktia province, who called for the implementation of development projects in the district, according to a statement from the ministry on Sunday.

He said development projects are planned and implemented according to the needs and priorities of local communities, adding that efforts are underway to ensure balanced development across different areas.

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Herat Governor Calls for Lower Petrol, Diesel Prices

HERAT: Herat Governor Mawlavi Noor Ahmad Islamjar has called for a reduction in petrol and diesel prices and urged closer cooperation between the government and the private sector to ease economic pressures on the public.

In a meeting with the union of traders importing petroleum products, the governor emphasized the need to reduce fuel prices in the local market and ensure that citizens have access to essential commodities at affordable prices, according to a statement from the provincial governor's press office on Sunday.

See P4

Document Authentication Expanded to 10 Districts to Facilitate Consular Services, Ministry

KABUL: The country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Sunday that official document authentication services have been expanded to 10 districts across Afghanistan as part of efforts to facilitate consular services and make them more accessible to citizens.

The statement said the document authentication services will be provided in Surobi and Qarabagh districts of Kabul province, Spin Boldak in Kandahar, Shindand in Herat, Kaldar or Hairatan in Balkh, Momand Dara or Torkham in Nangarhar, Gereshk in Helmand, Imam Sahib in Kunduz, Jaghori in Ghazni and Chamkani in Paktia.

The statement added that citizens in the mentioned districts will be able to submit their official documents for authentication through Afghan Post branches starting from August 1, 2026.

The documents will be sent through the Afghan Post offices to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or its provincial directorates for authentication, the statement said, adding that once the authentication process is completed, citizens will be able to collect their documents from the same Afghan Post offices where they submitted them.

The expansion of the service is aimed at making consular services easier and more accessible for citizens, particularly those living in districts far from provincial centers, the statement added.

The initiative is also expected to reduce the need for residents to travel long distances to access document authentication services. **The Kabul Times**

Mujahid Museum Introduces Jihad Legacy to Future Generations, Haqqani Highlights

KABUL: The country's Minister of Information and Culture Shaikh Shir Ahmad Haqqani has highlighted the role of the Mujahid Museum in preserving Afghanistan's historical heritage and introducing the history of jihad to future generations.

Visiting to Maidan Wardak province, Haqqani inspected various sections of the provincial Information and Culture Directorate, including the Mujahid Museum, the ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

He described the establishment of the museum as one of the major achievements of the Maidan Wardak Information and Culture Directorate, saying it would help preserve important historical heritage and present the history of jihad to future generations in a proper manner.

Meanwhile, Mawlawi Habibullah Mujahid, head of the Maidan Wardak Information and Culture Directorate, said the museum was established with limited resources and consists of four sections.

According to Mujahid, the museum houses historical artifacts, military equipment used by mujahideen, manuscripts and copies of ancient books, as well as memorabilia of martyrs and a list of their names.

Haqqani also praised the efforts of the provincial Information and Culture Directorate and provided officials with recommendations aimed at further improving its activities.

He also assured them that comprehensive support would be provided to complete the remaining sections of the Maidan Wardak Public Library. **The Kabul Times**

Narcotics Fight Collective Responsibility, Official Says

KABUL: Mohammad Naeem, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Finance and Administration, has called on the public to play an active role in combating narcotics, saying the fight against drugs is a collective responsibility.

Naeem made the remarks during a session organized by the Department of Invitation and Guidance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to explain Decree No. 31 on the prohibition of poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, the ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

He urged all sectors of society to contribute to raising public awareness about the dangers of narcotics and to play an active role in protecting the younger generation from drug-related threats.

According to the statement, participants discussed the objectives and legal and social dimensions of the decree, as well as its reported achievements in preventing the cultivation, production, trafficking and use of narcotics.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of combating narcotics in promoting public health, security and social welfare, strengthening the rule of law and enhancing Afghanistan's international standing. Participants further stressed the need for close coordination among relevant institutions and called for the full implementation of the decree banning poppy cultivation across the country. **The Kabul Times**

Over 4,400 Afghans Return from Pakistan, Iran in a Single Day

KABUL: The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations said in a statement on Sunday that 4,415 Afghan migrants returned to the country from Pakistan and Iran through major border crossings during the past 24 hours.

The statement said 4,235 Afghan migrants returned from Pakistan through the Torkham and Spin Boldak border crossings and 180 Afghan migrants entered Afghanistan from Iran through the Islam Qala and Abu Nasr Farahi border crossings. The latest returns are part of the ongoing movement of Afghan migrants returning to the country through official border crossings with Pakistan and Iran. **The Kabul Times**

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Food for thought

Today's Generation Guarantees Our Bright Future

Afghanistan's Stability Undermines Claims of Terrorist Presence

The recent assertion by a senior United Nations counter-terrorism official, claiming that Al-Qaeda still maintains a presence in Afghanistan, illustrates how some international assessments remain anchored in outdated perceptions. Instead of recognizing the profound shifts in Afghanistan's security environment, such evaluations continue to rely on old frameworks that no longer reflect the country's current reality. The image of Afghanistan as a space vulnerable to militant activity has become a habitual narrative rather than an analysis grounded in present-day evidence.

Afghanistan today is not the fragmented landscape of previous decades. It is a country under a unified authority that has demonstrated consistent control over its territory and a clear policy of preventing any armed group from operating within its borders. The Islamic Emirate has repeatedly affirmed its commitment to international obligations, including those outlined in the Doha Agreement, and has taken visible steps to ensure that Afghan soil is not used for destabilizing activities.

Security operations over the past three years have systematically dismantled networks that once sought to exploit Afghanistan's geography. Groups that previously attempted to establish footholds have been neutralized, dispersed, or eliminated. The country's security institutions have shown the capacity to detect threats early, respond decisively, and prevent the emergence of any organized militant presence. These actions are not symbolic. They represent a sustained and measurable effort to ensure stability.

Despite this, certain external actors continue to portray Afghanistan as a sanctuary for terrorism. Such claims often rely on generalizations rather than evidence, and they tend to serve political objectives rather than reflect factual assessments. The suggestion that Al-Qaeda "maintains a presence" is a vague formulation that avoids specifying activity, capability, or structure, precisely because none exist. Afghanistan's security environment has changed fundamentally, and the international narrative must catch up with this reality.

The Afghan people understand well that these recurring warnings are not rooted in genuine concern. They are part of a broader pattern in which Afghanistan is framed as a perpetual threat, regardless of the facts. This framing undermines the country's efforts to reintegrate into the international community and ignores the progress made in securing its borders and stabilizing its internal environment.

Afghanistan is proving, through action, not rhetoric, that no terrorist group operates within its territory. The era of militant safe havens is over. The country is demonstrating that it can uphold its commitments, protect its citizens, and contribute to regional stability. Repeating outdated remarks does not change this reality. It only misinforms the world and obscures the genuine progress achieved.

Time to Deliver on the Promises

By: Ahmad Shaker Zarbi

Joblessness is one of the defining crises of the modern world. In most places, it is driven by automation and modernization—factories adopting artificial intelligence and robotics, leaving less and less room for manual human labor.

But in Afghanistan, the story is entirely different. Unlike industrialized nations, our economic collapse wasn't caused by technology; it was caused by decades of imposed wars and foreign invasions from both East and West that systematically flattened our vital infrastructure and crippled our economy.

As a result, modern Afghanistan has been reduced to a consumer market, reliant on foreign goods.

This severe lack of employment opportunities has become a deep source of anxiety for everyday citizens and officials alike.

While this crisis is a heavy legacy inherited from past governments, its weight has been multiplied by the destruction of our foundational infrastructure and years of relentless, back-to-back droughts that have shattered the daily lives of our people. Because these problems run so deep, the poverty, joblessness, and humanitarian distress gripping our nation cannot be fixed overnight.

To be fair, the Islamic Emirate has put forward serious, sustained efforts over the last nearly five years to fight poverty, create jobs, and open up employment opportunities.

These efforts deserve credit and cannot be easily dismissed. However, the sheer reality of the unemployment crisis and the desperate need for humanitarian relief on the ground far outstrips what makes it onto the evening news.

For the last half-century, Afghans were dragged into brutal, asymmetric wars simply to defend their honor and their homeland. The cost of those conflicts was the total ruin of our factories, public facilities, and infrastructure.

Because of this history, the suffering people of Afghanistan have a legitimate, moral right to expect the international community and global aid agencies to step up and support them across all vital sectors.

Recently, the European Union announced its readiness to work alongside Rabab Fatima, the newly appointed head of UNAMA in Kabul, within the framework of international efforts regarding Afghanistan.

Beyond simply applauding her appointment to lead the UN Assistance Mission and serve as the Secretary-General's Special Representative, the EU voiced a commitment to tackling the country's immediate crises and stood by its promise to back the Afghan people.

But while Afghans welcome these statements of solidarity, they have grown weary of empty rhetoric.

They need to see these pledges turn into real, measurable action on the ground.

Our people have endured over forty years of proxy conflicts and wars forced onto them by foreign powers. Survival-level handouts are no longer enough. Given Afghanistan's vital geopolitical leverage, its massive untapped mineral wealth, and the resilience of its population, the real need lies in technical expertise, professional training, scientific collaboration, and robust financial and political partnership.

It comes down to an old, undeniable truth: stop handing out fish, and start investing in the tools to fish.

Deeper Ties with Neighbors; Afghanistan Seeking Balanced Interaction

By: Mashal Noori

Afghanistan is actively pursuing deeper, more balanced ties with its neighbors to bolster regional security, trade, and diplomacy. By prioritizing economic corridors, water management, and trade, Kabul aims to transition from a historically isolated state to a central hub for cross-border connectivity and cooperation.

Afghanistan shares borders with several important countries, and the Islamic Emirate has always sought deeper ties with its neighbors that are in the interests of Afghanistan and other nations in the region. The recent meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate with Iranian officials also demonstrates the continuation of this policy.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, Mawlvi Amir Khan Muttaqi, met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran for Consular Affairs, and discussed bilateral relations, consular services, and border cooperation between the two countries. In the meeting, Muttaqi emphasized that Afghan and Iranian citizens should receive consular services quickly, easily, and in accordance with accepted standards. The Iranian side also supported the strengthening of consular coordination between the two countries.

Over the past almost five years, Afghanistan has been pursuing a policy of balanced and active interaction with its neighbors and countries in the region. The expansion of relations with Iran, China, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Russia and now India shows that Afghanistan is no longer only taking an important place from the perspective of security issues, but also from the perspective of economic, political and regional cooperation. This change reflects the active diplomacy of the Islamic Emirate and its foreign policy. Facilitating consular services with neighboring Iran means solving the daily problems of thousands of Afghans. Any measure that facilitates the process of visas, documents, travel and other consular matters further strengthens the atmosphere of trust expand trade between the two countries.

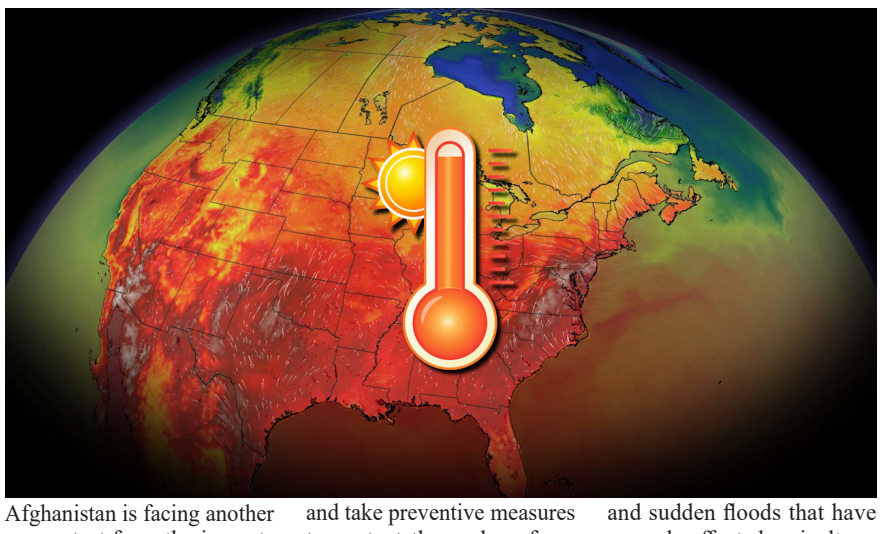
Efforts are also underway from both Afghanistan and India side to go for deeper trade ties with each other as Afghanistan's top trading body has called for further expanding trade and investment ties with India, stressing the need to ease business procedures, remove administrative barriers and facilitate the issuance of business visas. The proposals were discussed in Kabul during a meeting between Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) Chairman Sayed Karim Hashemi and Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan Yatin Patel. India has been strengthening connectivity with Afghanistan through Iran's Chabahar port, which provides direct access to Afghanistan.

India as a powerful country in the South Asia has also been stepping up engagement with Kabul, with Afghanistan Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Mawlavi Ataullah Omari visiting New Delhi earlier this month. According to the ACCI statement, Hashemi reaffirmed the trading body's commitment to strengthening long-term economic cooperation with India and highlighted the importance of facilitating trade procedures

See P4

Afghanistan's Extreme Heat Warning: A Growing Climate Challenge Demanding Collective Action

By: S. Naser Watandost



Afghanistan is facing another severe test from the impacts of climate change as authorities have warned of an intense heatwave expected to affect several provinces, with temperatures forecast to rise above 45 degrees Celsius in some areas. The warning issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) highlights the growing vulnerability of Afghan communities to extreme weather events that are becoming more frequent and more damaging.

According to the authorities, the northern provinces of Balkh and Jawzjan, the western provinces of Farah and Nimroz, and the southwestern province of Helmand are expected to experience the highest temperatures during this period. Citizens have been advised to avoid unnecessary exposure to extreme heat, follow safety recommendations, and take preventive measures to protect themselves from heat-related illnesses.

However, for millions of Afghans, avoiding extreme heat is not always a realistic option. Many citizens, particularly farmers, construction workers, street vendors, and daily wage earners, depend on outdoor work for their livelihoods. For these communities, staying indoors during the hottest hours of the day often means losing income needed to support their families. This reality makes extreme heat not only an environmental challenge but also a serious social and economic issue.

Afghanistan is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change despite contributing very little to global greenhouse gas emissions. In recent years, the country has experienced rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, declining water resources, and sudden floods that have severely affected agriculture, livestock, food security, and rural livelihoods. Climate change has become one of the major challenges threatening Afghanistan's economic stability and humanitarian conditions.

The impact of extreme heat is further intensified by Afghanistan's existing energy challenges. During periods of high temperatures, demand for electricity increases significantly as families, businesses, and public institutions rely more heavily on cooling systems and other electrical equipment. However, frequent power shortages remain a major problem in many parts of the country, including urban areas. Long hours without electricity during extreme heat create serious difficulties for households, hospitals, businesses, and educational institutions.

For ordinary citizens, power shortages during heatwaves are not simply an inconvenience. Many families struggle to preserve food, operate cooling devices, access clean water systems, and maintain comfortable living conditions. Patients in medical facilities may face additional risks when electricity interruptions affect essential equipment. Students and workers who depend on digital tools and internet access also experience disruptions that affect education and economic activities.

At the same time, the high cost of fuel and gas has placed additional pressure on households and businesses. Many families who cannot rely on stable electricity must use generators or alternative energy sources, but rising fuel prices make these options increasingly expensive. Small businesses, workshops, transport operators, and farmers are also affected by high energy costs, which increase production expenses and ultimately contribute to higher prices for consumers.

In this situation, addressing the challenges of extreme heat requires both immediate responses and long-term planning. The government has an important responsibility to strengthen disaster preparedness, improve public awareness, expand access to emergency services, and develop sustainable solutions for energy and climate resilience.

See P4

Consular Dialogue Between Afghanistan and Iran Moves Forward

By: Romal Sayedi

Jalalzadeh, speaking to Iranian media during his visit, emphasized that the talks covered a wide spectrum of bilateral concerns, including trade, transportation, student affairs, border management, terminal operations, and migrant-related challenges.

Afghanistan and Iran have signaled a renewed commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation after concluding the fifth meeting of the Afghanistan-Iran Joint Consular Commission in Kabul. The discussions, led by Vahid Jalalzadeh, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular, Parliamentary and Iranian Expatriates Affairs, resulted in agreements on several key issues while leaving room for continued dialogue on matters requiring further technical and institutional coordination.

Jalalzadeh, speaking to Iranian media during his visit, emphasized that the talks covered a wide spectrum of bilateral concerns, including trade, transportation, student affairs, border management, terminal operations, and migrant-related challenges. According to him, both sides reached consensus on many points, reflecting a shared desire to improve administrative cooperation and ease the daily difficulties faced by citizens of both countries. However, he noted that certain issues remain unresolved and will require additional consultations between relevant ministries and institutions.

He stated that while some decisions fall within the direct authority of the foreign ministries, others demand broader interagency coordination. "Some issues still require further discussions, and decisions on them depend on the views of the authorities in both countries. In some cases, the foreign ministries can decide directly, but in others, both sides need to consult and coordinate with the relevant institutions in their respective countries. It was agreed that this process will continue for the remaining issues," Jalalzadah said.

In a sign of growing diplomatic engagement, Jalalzadeh announced that he had extended a formal invitation to Mohammad Naeem, the Islamic Emirate's Deputy Foreign Minister for Administrative and Financial Affairs, to visit Tehran. He expressed hope that such high-level exchanges would pave the way for resolving outstanding matters in the coming months. "I presented my official invitation to my counterpart, Dr. Mohammad Naeem, at Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and I hope he will visit Tehran in the coming months so that we can also reach good agreements on the remaining issues," he added.

Political observers believe the continuation of these talks is crucial, particularly given the large Afghan migrant population residing in Iran. Najib-ur-Rahman Shamal, a political analyst, noted that the exchange of delegations and sustained diplomatic engagement can help address long-standing challenges faced by Afghan migrants, including documentation, legal status, and access to consular services. He argued that improved coordination between the two countries could lead to more efficient service delivery and reduce bureaucratic obstacles.

The latest round of discussions comes shortly after a high-level Afghan delegation visited Iran earlier this month. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Islamic Emirate's Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, and Amir Khan Muttaqi, the acting foreign minister of the IslamicEmirate, held separate meetings with Iran's president and foreign minister on July 3. Their talks focused on strengthening bilateral ties, expanding economic cooperation, and addressing regional issues of mutual concern. The visit underscored the importance both countries place on maintaining stable relations and advancing shared interests.

Observers say that the current diplomatic momentum reflects a broader trend in Afghanistan's foreign policy, which prioritizes constructive engagement with neighboring countries. With millions of Afghans living abroad, particularly in Iran, consular cooperation remains a critical pillar of bilateral relations. The continuation of talks on unresolved issues suggests that both sides recognize the need for sustained dialogue to manage complex cross-border challenges.

As the Joint Consular Commission prepares for further consultations, officials in Kabul and Tehran appear optimistic that remaining issues can be resolved through patient negotiation and institutional coordination. The agreements reached so far mark a step forward in improving administrative cooperation, while the commitment to continued dialogue signals a shared willingness to address outstanding concerns in a structured and mutually respectful manner.

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SPORTS

Afghan Martial Artist Clinches Bronze at World Ju-Jitsu Championship

Afghan athlete Mustafa Wakili has taken home a bronze medal at the World Ju-Jitsu Championship in Kazakhstan, marking a hard-earned victory for the country on the international sports stage. Competing in the highly competitive 69kg full-contact division, Wakili's tournament run kicked off with an automatic win in his opening round after his opponent failed to show up. That initial walkover moved him into a tough second-round clash against a hometown favorite from Kazakhstan. Wakili fought hard, but the Kazakh fighter managed to edge him out, leaving the Afghan athlete to take home a well-deserved third-place bronze.Afghanistan's presence at the tournament was bare-bones—just a three-man squad made up of two fighters and their coach. Given the minimal setup and limited resources, coming away with a world-stage medal is a massive achievement for the small squad. The premier event, hosted in Kazakhstan, brought together top-tier martial artists from 49 nations. The championship kicked off on July 11 and officially wrapped up yesterday, July 19. Wakili's bronze win stands as a proud moment for Afghan sports, proving once again that the country's athletes can hold their own against the world's best, even when the odds are stacked against them.

The Kabul Times

Afghan MMA Star Badakshi Set for International Matchup in India

Afghan MMA fighter Abdul Azim Badakshi is heading to India next month for a matchup under the ITF banner. He is scheduled to step into the cage on Saturday, August 8th, to take on a fighter from China.

Badakshi holds a professional record of 10 wins and 5 losses, and he is looking to secure a victory to push his career forward on the international stage.

His opponent brings plenty of ring time to the fight, carrying a record of 19 wins and 10 losses. The Chinese fighter's higher number of professional bouts means Badakshi will need to stay sharp and stick to a clear strategy to handle the experience gap.

With both men looking to secure a win, the upcoming event is set to be an interesting night for fight fans in the region.

The Kabul Times

Kylian Mbappé Overtakes Lionel Messi in World Cup Goal Scoring Record

French national football team star Kylian Mbappé has officially surpassed Argentine legend Lionel Messi to become the top goal scorer in World Cup history. The historic milestone was reached during France's recent third-place playoff match against England, where the French forward delivered a standout performance.

During the highly competitive fixture, Mbappé managed to find the back of the net twice. Scoring these two crucial goals against the English defense brought his total World Cup goal tally to an impressive 22 goals, successfully propelling him to the very top of the all-time tournament scoring chart.

Prior to this match, the record was held by Lionel Messi, who led the global standings with a lifetime total of 21 World Cup goals. Mbappé's latest scoring feat breaks that long-standing benchmark, rewriting the football history books and cementing his legacy on the international stage.

With this achievement, the French striker continues to establish himself as one of the most dominant forces in modern football, setting a new statistical standard for future generations in the world's biggest tournament.

The Kabul Times

Over 3.7 mln Jeribs of Pastureland Identified in Samangan, Commission

KABUL: The Commission for the Prevention of Land Grabbing and Restitution of Seized Lands said in a statement on Sunday that it has identified more than 3.708 million jeribs of pastureland in northern Samangan province.

The identified pasturelands are located in the provincial capital and several districts, including Hazrat Sultan, Khuram and Sar-e Bagh, Feroz Nakhchir, Roy-e Du Ab, Dara-e Suf Bala, Dara-e Suf Payin and Khulm, the statement said.

The identification of the pasturelands is part of ongoing efforts by the commission to prevent land grabbing and determine the ownership and status of public and state-owned lands across Afghanistan.

The process is aimed at documenting and protecting pasturelands and other public lands from illegal occupation and ensuring that disputed or seized lands are dealt with through the relevant authorities.

The Kabul Times

Development Projects Implemented...

From P1

The tribal elders and influential figures of Shwak raised their concerns and called on the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development to pay greater attention to the district's development needs and implement projects that could help improve local infrastructure and support communities.

Mansoor assured the delegation that the ministry would consider development needs and priorities when implementing public projects, emphasizing the importance of balanced development and responding to the needs of communities across the country. **The Kabul Times**

Russia Pounds Kyiv In Major Ballistic Missile Attack

Russia battered Ukraine's capital Kyiv overnight with one of its biggest ballistic missile barrages of the war, killing at least one person and wounding 16 others, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday.

A series of powerful explosions thundered across the darkened city in an attack that involved 41 missiles of various types and ravaged buildings across several districts.

Residential buildings, warehouses, a supermarket and a dormitory were among the structures damaged, said Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko, adding that three people were in a serious condition.

At one location in western Kyiv, emergency workers picked through smoldering debris and doused bombed-out apartments.

A resident who identified himself as Vlad told Reuters he had been inside his apartment when a blast tore off his balcony door, which smashed him in the head.

"My grandmother lives with me, and she can't walk. How could I run away and leave her behind?" he said.

Closer to the city center, an underground pedestrian passage near a frequently targeted metro station had caved in, leaving a pile of rubble. shortage of air defenses Russian forces have stepped up ballistic missile strikes on Kyiv and other cities in recent weeks as Ukraine struggles with a critical shortage of US-designed air defense.

Alarabiya

Herat Governor Calls for Lower...

From P1

The Herat governor warned that strict legal action would be taken against individuals involved in hoarding petroleum products, stressing that measures should be taken to prevent artificial shortages and market instability.

He also called on fuel traders to stand alongside the public during difficult economic conditions and cooperate with government officials to reduce challenges facing citizens, meet public demand and maintain stability in the market.

Shaikh Islamjar said government officials and petroleum importers committed to taking necessary measures in the coming days to reduce petrol and diesel prices.

The meeting comes amid concerns over fuel prices and their impact on household expenses and economic activity, with authorities emphasizing cooperation between the government and private sector to improve market conditions.

The Kabul Times

Deeper Ties with Neighbors;...

From P3

and institutional development in the private sector.

Hashimi, who has recently visited India, stressed the need to sustain and deepen economic cooperation in the fields of agricultural exports, handicrafts, mining, and mineral resources.

The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) said both sides agreed to pursue sustainable cooperation in trade, investment and infrastructure development and strengthen long-term economic, political and cultural ties based on transparency, efficiency and mutual benefit. It is worth mentioning that India and Afghanistan bilateral trade has largely remained around the $1 billion mark over the past five years.

Afghanistan is taking confident steps towards a balanced foreign policy and pursuing deeper ties with neighbors and countries in the region. With political, economic and consular cooperation with Iran and other countries, Afghanistan seeks deeper trade and political ties its neighbors. By continuing this strategy, Afghanistan will further strengthen its relations with regional countries and enter a new stage of cooperation based on mutual benefits.

Afghanistan's Extreme Heat Warning:...

From P3

Increasing investment in domestic energy production should be a national priority. Afghanistan has significant potential in solar, hydro, wind, and other renewable energy resources. Developing these resources can reduce dependence on imported electricity and fuel, improve energy security, create employment opportunities, and provide more reliable power for citizens and businesses.

Improving the electricity infrastructure is equally important. Expanding transmission networks, upgrading outdated systems, reducing technical losses, and encouraging responsible investment in the energy sector can help create a more stable electricity supply.

Reliable energy is not only essential for comfort during hot weather; it is a foundation for economic growth, industrial development, healthcare services, and modern education.

The private sector also has an important role to play. Businesses can contribute by adopting energy-efficient technologies, investing in renewable energy solutions, and supporting environmentally responsible practices. Traders and industrialists who benefit from economic opportunities should also work toward creating sustainable solutions that reduce costs for both businesses and consumers.

Citizens, meanwhile, can contribute by using energy and water responsibly, avoiding unnecessary electricity consumption, protecting natural resources, planting trees where possible, and following health and safety recommendations during extreme weather. Individual actions may appear small, but collective responsibility can significantly reduce pressure on limited resources.

Special attention must also be given to vulnerable groups, including children, elderly people, farmers, and low-income families. Public awareness campaigns, accessible health services, and community-based support programs can reduce the risks associated with extreme heat and ensure that the most affected citizens receive protection.

The current heatwave warning is not merely a temporary weather alert; it is another reminder that climate challenges are becoming a permanent reality for Afghanistan.

The country must adapt to a changing climate while addressing existing economic and infrastructure difficulties. Extreme heat, power shortages, and rising energy costs are interconnected challenges that require coordinated action from government institutions, private businesses, and citizens.

Afghanistan's future resilience will depend on how effectively the country responds today. By investing in sustainable energy, strengthening infrastructure, improving disaster management, and promoting responsible resource use, Afghanistan can better protect its people from climate-related challenges.

The heatwave serves as a warning, but it can also become an opportunity to accelerate reforms and build a more sustainable future. Ensuring reliable electricity, affordable energy, and climate resilience is not only an economic necessity but also a responsibility toward current and future generations of Afghans.